

What is claimed is:

1. A method of characterizing a logical storage object, the method comprising:
  - storing information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics
  - 5 for the logical storage object; and
    - transmitting the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the data storage object to a processor.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics includes information identifying methods for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency.
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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information identifying methods for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics includes information identifying methods for deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object.
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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information identifying methods for deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.
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6. A data structure for characterizing a logical storage object, wherein the data structure comprises:
  - a quiesce characterization, wherein the quiesce characterization includes a method for placing the logical storage object in a state of transactional consistency; and

a split type characterization, wherein the split type characterization includes a method of deriving a point in time image from the logical storage object.

7. The data structure of claim 6, wherein the quiesce characterization includes a  
5 quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

8. The data structure of claim 6, wherein the split type characterization includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.

10 9. A storage object, comprising:

means for storing data;

means for storing information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the data storage object; and

15 means for transmitting the information characterizing quiesce capabilities and split characteristics for the data storage object to a processor.

10. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the information characterizing quiesce capabilities includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

20 11. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the information characterizing split characteristics includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.

12. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the means for storing includes a file manager.

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13. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the means for storing includes a volume manager.

14. The storage object of claim 9, wherein the means for storing includes  
30 nonvolatile memory.

15. A plug-in component for providing data representative of quiesce behavior of a logical storage object, the component comprising:

configuration information;

5 tactical syntax information describing how a frozen image of the logical storage object is generated; and

information describing quiesce capabilities within the logical storage object.

16. The plug-in component of claim 15, wherein the information describing

10 quiesce capabilities includes a quiesce-type attribute and a quiesce-node attribute.

17. The plug-in component of claim 15, wherein the information describing

quiesce capabilities includes a split-type attribute and a split-node attribute.